

William Blum, U.S. Policy Critic Cited by bin Laden, Dies at 85

By Sam Roberts

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William Blum, who raged against United States foreign policy in relative obscurity for decades until one of his published anti-imperialist broadsides received a surge in sales thanks to a surprise public tribute from Osama bin Laden, died on Sunday in Arlington, Va. He was 85.

His son, Alexander, said the cause was kidney failure. Mr. Blum had been hospitalized after being injured in a fall in his apartment in October.

Mr. Blum (pronounced “bloom”) was a computer programmer for the State Department who aspired to become a career Foreign Service officer and “take part in the great anti-Communist crusade,” he once recalled. But he became disillusioned over the Vietnam War.

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